

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 7-9.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 1-5 and 10 are allowed.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. With regard to claim 6, this rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 6. While not identical to claim 1, claim 6 has been amended to include features similar to claim 1. As stated in the Office Action, claim 1 is allowed. Thus, claim 6 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Because Yamamoto et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 6, claim 6 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Yamamoto et al.

With regard to claim 7, this rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 7. While not identical to claim 1, claim 7 has been amended to include features similar to claim 1. As stated in the Office Action, claim 1 is allowed. Thus, claim 7 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Because Yamamoto et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 7, claim 7 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Yamamoto et al.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Hiroshima et al. With regard to claim 8, this rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 8. While not identical to claim 1, claim 8 has been amended to include features similar to claim 1. As stated in the Office Action, claim 1 is allowed. Thus, claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Because Hiroshima et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 8, claim 8 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Hiroshima et al.

With regard to claim 9, this rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 9. While not identical to claim 1, claim 9 has been amended to include features similar to claim 1. As stated in the Office Action, claim 1 is allowed. Thus, claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Because Hiroshima et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 9, claim 9 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Hiroshima et al.


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The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that claims 6-9 are in condition for allowance. Claims 1-5 and 10 are allowed. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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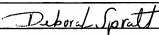
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Deborah Spratt



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